

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Jacobson and Brian Matross on 7-19-2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, section (iv) is amended to begin, "said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion are ~~adapted~~ substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration".

Claim 2 is cancelled.

In claim 5, section (iv) is amended to begin, "said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion are ~~adapted~~ substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration".

Claim 8 is cancelled.

In claim 9, the third paragraph of part (c) is amended to begin, “wherein said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion of said clip is are adapted substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration”.

In claim 13, the words ‘relatively stiff’ are deleted from parts (a), (b), and (d). The second paragraph of part (d) is amended to begin, “wherein said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion comprise a single continuous piece of material and are substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration”.

In claim 17, the second paragraph of part (d) is amended to begin, “wherein said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion are made from a single continuous piece of material and are substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration”.

In claim 21, the second paragraph of part (iii) is amended to begin, ““wherein said first and second arm portions and said bridge portion comprise a single continuous piece of material and are substantially stiff to maintain a generally U-shaped configuration”. Part (c) is amended to read, “folding the retainer about the tip of the first arm while maintaining the first and second arm portions and the bridge portion in the generally U-shaped configuration.”

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Blatt whose telephone number is (571)272-9735. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Todd Manahan can be reached on 571-272-4713. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/E. B./  
Examiner, Art Unit 3734

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